FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have already phased out the use of Aldrin in India and the registration issued under the Insecticides Act, 1968 shall stand cancelled with effect from 31st December, 1993. Besides Aldrin, pesticides which have been prohibited recently are chlordane, heptachlor, tetradifon, nitrofen, nicotine sulphate (prohibited for use, manufactured for export purpose only), paraquat, phenylmercury acetate, and pentachlorophenol. Pesticides which have been restricted recently are lindane, methyl parathion, BHC and DDT.

Untreated effluents in some industrial towns

3350. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that untreated effluents have reached into underground aquifers in the industrial townships of Faridabad, Ludhiana, Pali etc. and in Varanasi, Kanpur and Lucknow and other cities;

(b) if so, whether water in these centres is becoming unfit for human consumption; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to save and protect public health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board have revealed that ground water in localized parts of some cities have been polluted due to seepage of untreated effluents and is not fit for human consumption, unless treated.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to save and protect public health include the following:

(i) Effluent standards have been prescribed.

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards.

(iv) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment on a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(v) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the State Govts. to comply with the effluent standards on a time bound basis.

(vi) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

Toxins Quench Thirst in Industrial Towns

3351. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in the Indian Express dated the 29th November, 1992 captioned "Toxins Quench Thirst in Industrial Towns";

(b) whether it is a fact that industrial effluents have leaked into underground aquifers in most of the industrial towns;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted on this problem;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that a recent survey identified the city of Hyderabad as most vulnerable to ground water pollution;

(f) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has formulated any scheme to prevent such pollution; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.